

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner restricted claims 75, 78, 79, 81-99, and 101-113 to one of the following species and subspecies. Specifically, the Examiner listed the following species: (Species 1) as set forth in Figs. 1-3, 9, and 11; (Species 2) as set forth in Fig. 10; (Species 3) as set forth in Figs. 12-14; (Species 4) as set forth in Fig. 15; (Species 5) as set forth in Fig. 16; and (Species 6) as set forth in Fig. 17. The Examiner also listed the following subspecies: (Subspecies a) as shown in Figs. 4-6; (Subspecies b) as shown in Fig. 7; and (Subspecies c) as shown in Fig. 8.

Interview Summary

On November 8, 2006, the Applicants' representative, Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226) and the Examiner held a telephonic interview to discuss the history of the application, the previous restriction requirement dated July 24, 2003, possible allowable subject matter, and a strategy to expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application. During this interview, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the previous restriction requirement dated July 24, 2003, and formulate a new restriction requirement (i.e., the present office action) to resolve the problems with the original restriction requirement. In addition, the Examiner suggested pursuing the subject matter set forth in Fig. 10 and/or Figs. 12-14, which the Examiner further suggested would be allowable over the prior art of record.

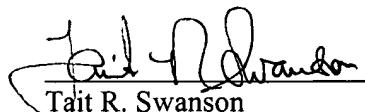
Election of Species/Subspecies

In view of the foregoing telephonic interview and the present election of species/subspecies requirement, the Applicants elect to prosecute the claims corresponding to Species "2" and Subspecies "a" *with traverse*. However, despite this traversal, the Applicants hereby amend claims 75, 83, 85, 88, 95, 99, 102-105, 108, 110, 112, and 113, cancel claim 81, and add new claims 114-125 to pursue the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner with reference to the species of Fig. 10. Specifically, each of the independent claims now reads on the elected species "2" and subspecies "a." Again, in view of the foregoing telephonic interview, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 22, 2007



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